7142333/2023/SEC-IV-EFS01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Departmental proceedings under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S (CC & A) Rules, 1991 against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer(Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor – Punishment of (5%) five percent cut in pension for two (2) years" – Imposed – Final orders- Issued.

ENVORONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.18 **Dated.20/03/2023**

Read the following:-

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.no.5434/2016 /A&DC-1, Dated 22.02.2022.
2. Memo.No.444/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T(Sec.IV) Dept., dated 13.06.2022.
3. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.no.5434/2016/A&DC-1, dated 08.07.2022.
4. Letter No.444/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 05.08.2022
5. From the APPSC, Vijayawada, File No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/72/2022-DC.SEC-APPSC., dated 21.09.2022.
6. Memo.No.444/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 25.10.2022.
7. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur, letter Ref.no.5434/2016/A&DC-1, dated 08.02.2023.

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has reported that the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor in the Ref.no.5434/2016/Vig-1, dated 27.07.2017, under Rule 20 of the A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991:-

Charge: That, the said Sri M. Reddeppa, during his tenure as Forest Range Officer, Puttur Range of Chittoor East(WL) Division, Chittoor from 03.11.2014 to 16.06.2017, being a law protector, has allowed illicit cutting and transportation of Teak trees (Non exempted species) from Private patta lands of Mallareddy Kandriga village in Puttur Range limits violating the rules in vogue and failed to guide the public who approached for felling permission about the rules & regulations prescribed under A.P. Teakwood Possession Rules, 1970, A.P. Forest Produce Transit Rules, 1970 and A.P WALTA Act, 2002. Deliberate intention of staff under the guidance of Sri M. Reddeppa, FRO, in not following procedure in vogue has clearly established that they intended to grab money from the party / public. Hence, he has shown willful negligence in discharging his legitimate duties. Hence the charge".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the Article of Charge on 22.10.2017 and the Charged Officer has submitted his written defence statement on 18.03.2020. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF., A.P., Guntur appointed the CCF., WLM Circle, Tirupati as Inquiry Officer and the DFO., Chittoor East Wildlife Division as Presenting Officer, in Proc.no.5434/2016/Vig.1(i) & (ii), dated 26.07.2019, for conducting regular enquiry.

[P.T.O]

3. The Inquiry Officer completed the Inquiry and submitted his findings in the Rc.no.283/2016/M4, dated 12.11.2021, wherein the Inquiry Officer has concluded as follows:-

CONCLUSION:

"Based on the above analysis, it is concluded that the charges are held proved, beyond reasonable doubt.

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer in the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Ref.no.5434/2016/A&DC-1, dated 24.12.2021. In the Rc.no.283/2016/M4, dated 24.01.2022, the Chief Conservator of Forests, WLM Circle, Tirupati submitted dated acknowledgment in token receipt of the final notice; and the Charged Officer has submitted further defense statement which was received in the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P. on 28.01.2022.

5. The Charged Officer retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.07.2019. Hence, disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. On examination of the matter, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty "one (1%) cut in pension for a period of 2 years" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor.

7. Accordingly, in Memo. 2nd read above, a Show-cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF., A.P., for submitting his defence statement. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has submitted the dated acknowledgement of the Charged Officer wherein the Charged Officer acknowledged the same on 28.06.2022 and submitted his explanation dated Nil to the show-cause notice. The charged officer did not submit any new/fresh or valid points in his further defense statement.

8. On examination of the issue, Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a penalty of "one (1%) cut in pension for a period of 2 years" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. In the reference 4th read above, the Secretary, APPSC has been requested to obtain and communicate the concurrence of the Commission on the proposed penalty of "one (1%) cut in pension for a period of 2 years" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor.

9. In the reference 5th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has informed that the act of the Charged Officer exhibits moral turpitude of a Government employee for which the punishment imposed is to be appropriate and advised to enhance it to 5% for 2 years as the proposed punishment of 1% cut in pension for a period of two (2) years is negligible.

10. On examination of the matter, the Government have provisionally decided to accept the advice of the APPSC for enhancing the punishment to "5% cut in pension for (2) years" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor, under Rule 9 of A.P.R.P. Rules, 1980.

11. Accordingly, in Memo. 6th read above, a show-cause notice has been issued to the retired Charged Officer on the proposed punishment of "5%

cut in pension for 2 years". In the reference 7th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur has submitted the dated acknowledgement. Further defence statement has not been received from the charged officer. However, the given stipulated time has been expired by 21/2 months from the date of receipt of show-cause notice by the Charged Officer.

12. After careful examination of the entire matter, the Government hereby order to impose a penalty of "5% cut in pension for (2) years" against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forespt Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

13. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Puttur Range, Chittoor East Wildlife Division, Chittoor through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur(w.e.)
(Connected record File Rc.No.283/2016/M4 pages 1 to 338 and connected record page no.1 to 205).

Copy to
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.
The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The P.S. to Secretary to Chief Minister, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1663400)

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER